



CHILTERNNS

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 – 2024

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Responses

February 2019

The Chilterns Conservation Board
The Lodge
90 Station Road
Chinnor
Oxfordshire
OX39 4HA
www.chilternsaonb.org



Sent by email to:

Andrew Smith andrew.smith@naturalengland.org.uk
Martin Small martin.small@historicengland.org.uk
Clark Gordon clark.gordon@environment-agency.gov.uk

cc adam.wallace@naturalengland.org.uk

18th October 2018

Dear Andy, Martin and Clark,

Re: Chilterns AONB Management Plan Review – screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment

I am writing to consult you as one of the three statutory bodies for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. We are in the process of reviewing our AONB Management Plan, and have prepared a SEA Screening report to determine whether it is necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2019-2024.

Our provisional conclusion is that SEA is not required because the plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment. SEA was carried out on the previous Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019. Generally the divergence between the previous and current plans is low, so proposed changes to the existing plan are unlikely to have significant effects. We therefore propose that there is no requirement to carry out further SEA.

I would be grateful if you could confirm this approach. Following this consultation a SEA screening statement will be published to show the conclusions of the screening exercise.

If you have any comments or queries please don't hesitate to get in touch on 01844 355507 or lmurfett@chilternsaonb.org.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Murfett".

Lucy Murfett
Planning Officer

From: Harries, Sally (NE) <Sally.Harries@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 19 December 2018 18:27
To: Planning <Planning@chilternsaonb.org>
Subject: 268214 Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 – 2024 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Dear Lucy

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019 – 2024 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report.

We concur with the conclusions of the report that:

- an SEA will not be required for the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019 to 2024. This is because the plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment.
- An SEA was carried on the previous Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014 to 2019. Proposed changes to the extant plan are not likely to have significant effects and there is no requirement to carry out further assessment.

The driving force of the Management Plan is to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Chilterns AONB, which have a strong focus on the natural environment and scenic beauty: this will inform any potential conflicts in demands on the AONB eg from increased recreational use or development pressures.

Kind regards,

Sally Harries

Sustainable Development
Thames Team

Tel: 0208 026 4005

**Natural England,
4th Floor Eastleigh House, Upper Market St,
Eastleigh SO50 9YN**

www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Lucy Murfett
Chilterns Conservation Board
The Lodge
90 Station Road
Chinnor
Oxfordshire
OX39 4HA

Date: 8 November 2018

Dear Lucy,

Environment Agency opinion on SEA Screening Report for Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

Thank you for sending us the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report (dated October 2018) and accompanying letter for our opinion, which we received on 18 October.

Following a review of the SEA Screening Report, and based on an initial review of the second draft of the Management Plan (which we received for consultation on 1 November), we agree that the plan is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect on those matters within our remit.

We therefore agree with the conclusions of the SEA Screening Report that an SEA is not required for the plan. Please note that this opinion is only provided for the matters in the plan within our remit.

If you have any queries about this opinion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Clark Gordon
Strategic Planning Specialist

Direct dial 0203 025 8998
E-mail planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

cc Rebecca Micklem – Natural England
Craig Harrison – Forestry Commission
Martin Small – Historic England

End



Historic England

Lucy Murfitt
Planning Officer
Chilterns Conservation Board
The Lodge, 90 Station Road
Chinnor
Oxfordshire OX39 4HA.

Our ref: HD/P00303
Your ref:
Telephone 01483 252040
Fax

2nd November 2018

Dear Lucy,

Re: Chilterns AONB Management Plan Review – screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thank you for your e-mail and attachments of 18th October requesting the view of Historic England on the Conservation Board's provisional screening opinion for strategic environmental assessment of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan Review.

It was presumably deemed that the previous Management Plan should be subject to SEA because of likely significant effects on the environment – indeed, we note the conclusion of the SEA of the previous Plan that “*it was apparent that the AONB Management Plan will make a significant contribution to advancing all aspects of the environment*”. As “*the divergence between the previous and current plans is low*”, it is perhaps incorrect to conclude that “*the plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment*”.

We note the statement that “*The AONB Management Plan is a force for environmental good, not environmental harm*”. However, the SEA Directive and Regulations only refer to “effects”, which can be either adverse or beneficial.

However, assuming that there has been no significant change in the parameters on which the previous SEA was undertaken e.g. in the baseline, in the higher level policy context or in the sustainability issues, we do not suggest that the Plan as a whole should be subject to a new SEA.

It may be appropriate to undertake a proportionate SEA of the changes, or it may be perfectly reasonable to conclude that, in themselves, the changes to the Plan are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that it is therefore not necessary for them to be subject to SEA.

Although there is some indication in the Screening Report, we are not advised of what the exact changes are, so we cannot be definitive in our opinion on the need or not for the changes to the Plan to be subject to a proportionate SEA at this time.



Historic England, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford GU1 3EH
Telephone 01483 25 2020 HistoricEngland.org.uk

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Nevertheless, we are content, based on the information currently provided to us, for the production of the Management Plan Review to proceed without being subject to SEA. However, unlikely though it may be, we may wish to review that opinion when we see the Draft Management Plan Review.

Incidentally, we welcome and support Draft Strategic Objectives HO1, HO2 and HO3 but would suggest that “unprotected” in HO1 should be “non-designated”, as such assets enjoy a degree of protection through the National Planning Policy Framework and possibly through local plan policies and the Management Plan itself.

We hope these comments are helpful.

Thank you again for consulting Historic England.

Kind regards,



Martin Small Principal Adviser, Historic Environment Planning
(Bucks, Berks, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, IoW, South Downs NP and Chichester)
martin.small@historicengland.org.uk



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